

Keeping you informed

Benefit plan news for People Corporation plan sponsors

Coronavirus disease COVID-19 outbreak – Update 3

We continue to monitor the progress of the Coronavirus disease outbreak.

Since our last update we've seen the following changes:

- Stronger border restrictions have been implemented - Non-essential cross border travel between Canada and the U.S. has been restricted. Workers who cross the border daily to do essential work aren't affected. Travel for recreational and tourism purposes are no longer permitted. Shipments of key supplies will continue.
- Confirmed instances of COVID-19 diseases in Canada have increased
- [States of emergency](#) have been declared in: AB, BC, MB, ON, and NB

On March 18, Prime Minister Trudeau announced an \$82B pledge of which \$27B will directly support Canadian workers and businesses. The government is taking action to significantly increase the availability of credit to businesses of all sizes, sustain liquidity in key financial markets, and provide flexibility to businesses experiencing hardship. [See the full report.](#)

Highlights include:

- **Helping businesses keep their workers:** The government is proposing to provide eligible small employers a temporary wage subsidy for a period of three months. The subsidy will be equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer
- **Flexibility for filing taxes:** The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all businesses to defer the payment of income tax that became owing on March 18 and before September, to August 31. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.
- **Access to credit:** The government is providing more than \$10 billion of additional support, largely targeted to small and medium-sized businesses. This will be an effective tool for helping viable Canadian businesses remain resilient during these very uncertain times.

Current state in Canada

Current statistics on the confirmed number of cases in Canada can be found on the Government of Canada [site](#).



Tools and resources for employers

People Corporation has a broad range of expertise. We've developed tools and educational pieces to help you manage the changing work environment.

- **Tips on developing your work from home policy**

If you've got employees working remotely, check out People First HR's [article](#) for tips and guidance.

- **Health and wellness**

To help guide your employees through health and wellness during this time, view our [webinar](#) on the implications of COVID-19 on the workplace.

Employee assistance program

If your plan includes an employee assistance program (EAP), plan members can access their services by connecting with them. Contact information for the EAP provider associated with your plan is provided in your plan member booklets.

People Connect

If your group benefits plan includes People Connect, now is a good time for them to access the services available. If you're interested in adding People Connect to your benefits plan contact peopleconnect@peoplecorporation.com or speak with your benefits consultant. For more information on our People Connect solution, view our [video](#).

If you missed it, read our COVID-19 Update #2 for information on:

- Travelling outside of Canada and travel coverage available under your benefits plan
- Short-term Disability coverage
- Building a business continuity plan
- Protecting your employees

Visit our site

A section of our [site](#) is dedicated to COVID-19. We've included information ranging from direction on short-term disability claims, to support with human resource issues along with information for plan members. The site is updated daily to ensure you're equipped with the most recent news and support tools. If you can't find the answers you need, we're here. Contact your benefits consultant with questions.

What we're doing

There are new developments in the COVID-19 pandemic daily. We're well-positioned to maintain our operations and fulfill our ongoing responsibilities to you and your employees during these challenging times. We know the services we provide are critical and we've planned extensively to ensure we can continue to deliver on our services.

In the interest of keeping everyone healthy we're doing our part to flatten the curve. To help keep our employees and their families safe, we've temporarily closed our office. We can assure you we're well-equipped to continue to provide the service you and your plan members are accustomed to.

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